

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application, and are rejected. Claims 6-9, 16-19 and 24-26 are withdrawn from consideration, and are canceled. Claims 20-23 are rejected. Claims 1-5 and 10-15 are objected to. Claims 1-5, 10-15 and 20-23 are herein amended.

Cancellation of Claims

This application contains claims 6-9, 16-19 and 24-26 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 8. Applicants herein cancel these claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5, 10-15, 20 and 23 are objected to because on line 1 the phrase “of the laminate type” is indefinite. Applicants herein remove this phrase from the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 11, 12 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

In claims 11 and 12, at the end of line 1, there is no antecedent basis for “said one ceramic layer”. In claim 11, Applicants herein change the claim to read “...wherein at least one of said ~~one~~ ceramic ~~layer~~ layers contains...”. In claim 12, we Applicants herein change the claim to read, “wherein ~~said one~~ each ceramic layer has the same composition” as in our proposed amended claims attached hereto.

In claims 20 and 23, the phrases “serviceable as a main body” and “serviceable as a material” are considered vague and indefinite, as it is not clearly what “main body” is referring to. Applicants herein delete these phrases from claims 20 and 23 as in our proposed amended claims attached hereto.

Claim 23 is considered confusing, and the Examiner asserts that it is unclear how the green sheet relates to the laminate structure which comprises a first ceramic layer and a second ceramic layer. Applicants note that the term “green sheet” is commonly known in the art of ceramics and materials as a raw sheet that is to be fired to form a ceramic or other material finished sheet. Applicants submit that claim 23 is not confusing, because one skilled in the art would know what a green sheet was for.

For the Examiner’s reference, Applicants include herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,589,446, which describes steps for forming green sheets in the background of the invention (col. 1, lines 53-67), which more clearly explains the meaning of “green sheet” commonly understood in the art.

Applicants note that claim 23 is more properly worded by changing the language to, “A green sheet for use in fabricating part of a composite device”, because a second green sheet is actually used to form the other part of the composite device. Applicants so amend the claim.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 020170
Serial No. 10/071,131

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment: U.S. Patent No. 6,589,446

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